

# AYLESBURY

## William I demanded green geese and eels whenever he visited!



William the Conqueror

At the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror took the manor of Aylesbury for himself, and it is listed as a royal manor in the Domesday Book of 1086. Some lands here were granted by the king to citizens upon the extraordinary tenure that the owners should provide straw for the monarch's bed, sweet herbs for his

chamber, and two green geese and three eels for his table, whenever he should visit Aylesbury

The Kings Head, in Market Square, Aylesbury is an historic ancient coaching inn dating back to about 1450, though the cellars may be 13th century. It is one of the oldest public houses with a coaching yard in the south of England. It is now owned by the National Trust and is



Kings Head Inn : Chris Nybor



St Mary's Church, the oldest building in Aylesbury dates to the 13th century : Roger Marks

open to the public. King Henry VI possibly stayed here in the 15th century while on a tour of the country with his new wife Margaret of Anjou. A stained glass panel was later inserted in the front window of the inn, depicting the king and queen's coats of arms.

Henry VIII declared Aylesbury the new county town of Buckinghamshire in 1529. It is thought he did so to curry favour with Thomas Boleyn (father of Anne Boleyn) who owned Aylesbury Manor. According to local folklore, Henry subsequently wooed Anne in the Solar Room above the Great Hall in the Kings Head in 1533.

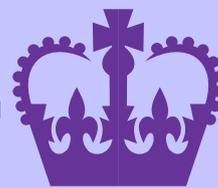


Margaret Anjou

King Henry VI

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## Royal Connections



The grade II\* listed Jacobean mansion of Hartwell House adjoining the southwest of the town was the residence of Louis XVIII of France during his exile (1810–1814).

Louis was joined at various times at Hartwell by his Queen, Marie-Josephine de Savoie, his niece the Duchesse D'Angoulême, (daughter of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette), his brother the Comte d'Artois, (later Charles X), and Gustavus IV the exiled King of Sweden, which whom Louis enjoyed playing billiards. Louis's wife, Marie Josephine of Savoy, who was

an alcoholic, died at Hartwell in 1810 and is buried in the churchyard there, the only French Queen to be buried on English soil.



Portrait of Louis XVIII

In 1814, in the library at Hartwell House, Louis XVIII signed the Treaty of Paris bringing the Napoleonic Wars to an end and restoring the House of Bourbon to the Throne of France. (Bourbon Street in Aylesbury is named after the king). He then led a great procession through Aylesbury to say his farewells.



Marie Josephine of Savoy, c1810



Aylesbury, Bourbon Street : Nigel Cox



Hartwell House

It is believed that King Edward VII, whilst still Prince of Wales, broke his leg during a visit to Aylesbury and was treated at the Buckinghamshire Infirmary in central Aylesbury. In recognition he granted the title "Royal" to the hospital. It was re-named the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital as part of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1887. The hospital was sold by the NHS in 1994 and is now a private facility for people with spinal and neurological conditions.



Edward VII



Royal Bucks Hospital : Ron Adams

### Further information

Kings Head: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kings-head](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kings-head)

Hartwell House: [www.hartwell-house.com](http://www.hartwell-house.com)